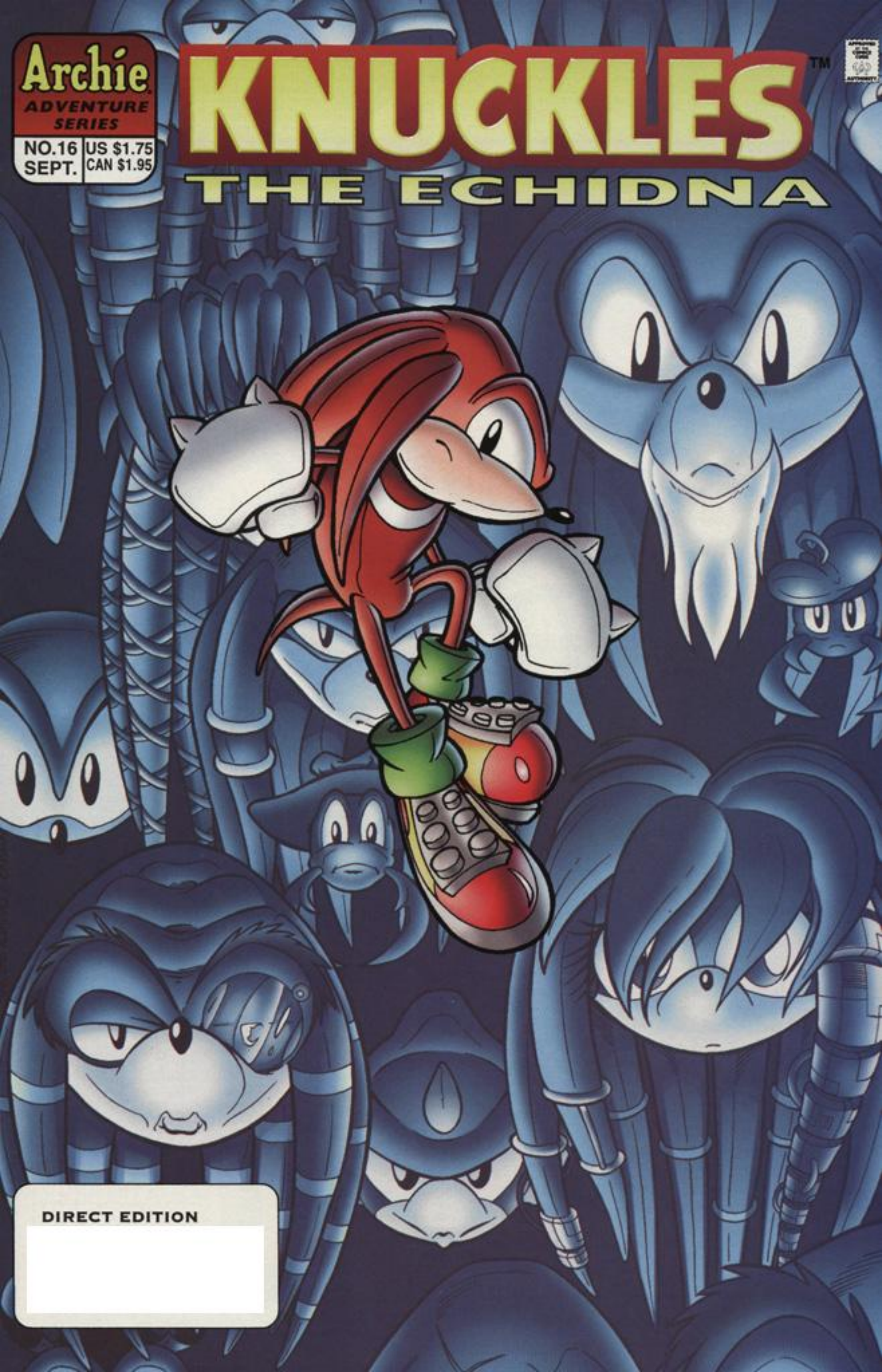


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KNUCKLES™

THE ECHIDNA



DIRECT EDITION



KNUCKLES™

BOOK SIXTEEN

REUNIONS

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MANNY GALAN: PENCILER

ANDREW PEPOY: INKER

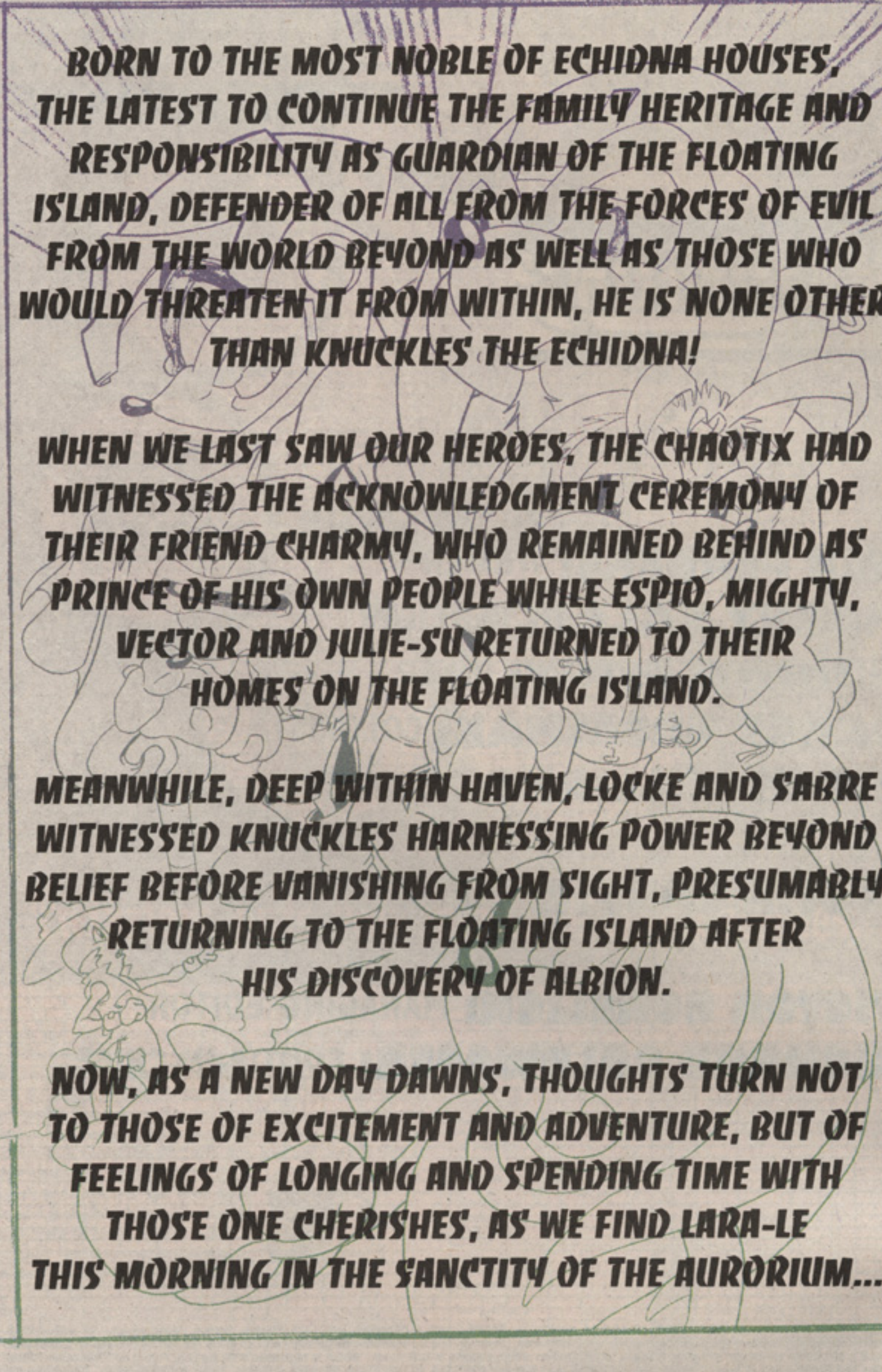
BARRY GROSSMAN: COLORIST

VICKIE WILLIAMS: LETTERER

JUSTIN GABRIE: EDITOR

VICTOR GORELICK: MANAGING EDITOR

RICHARD GOLDWATER: EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

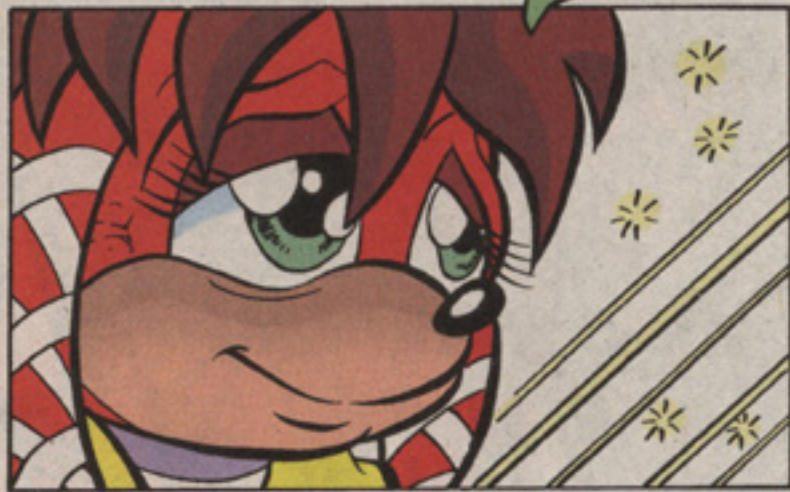
A faint, purple-toned line drawing of Knuckles the Echidna serves as the background for the text. He is depicted from the chest up, wearing his signature red spiked gloves and a determined expression. His arms are slightly out to his sides, and his body is angled towards the viewer. The drawing is composed of simple, sketchy lines, giving it a hand-drawn or storyboard-like appearance.

**BORN TO THE MOST NOBLE OF ECHIDNA HOUSES,
THE LATEST TO CONTINUE THE FAMILY HERITAGE AND
RESPONSIBILITY AS GUARDIAN OF THE FLOATING
ISLAND, DEFENDER OF ALL FROM THE FORCES OF EVIL
FROM THE WORLD BEYOND AS WELL AS THOSE WHO
WOULD THREATEN IT FROM WITHIN, HE IS NONE OTHER
THAN KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!**

**WHEN WE LAST SAW OUR HEROES, THE CHAOTIX HAD
WITNESSED THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT CEREMONY OF
THEIR FRIEND CHARMY, WHO REMAINED BEHIND AS
PRINCE OF HIS OWN PEOPLE WHILE ESPIO, MIGHTY,
VECTOR AND JULIE-SU RETURNED TO THEIR
HOMES ON THE FLOATING ISLAND.**

**MEANWHILE, DEEP WITHIN HAVEN, LOCKE AND SABRE
WITNESSED KNUCKLES HARNESSING POWER BEYOND
BELIEF BEFORE VANISHING FROM SIGHT, PRESUMABLY
RETURNING TO THE FLOATING ISLAND AFTER
HIS DISCOVERY OF ALBION.**

**NOW, AS A NEW DAY DAWNS, THOUGHTS TURN NOT
TO THOSE OF EXCITEMENT AND ADVENTURE, BUT OF
FEELINGS OF LONGING AND SPENDING TIME WITH
THOSE ONE CHERISHES, AS WE FIND LARA-LE
THIS MORNING IN THE SANCTITY OF THE AURORIUM...**



KNUCKLES

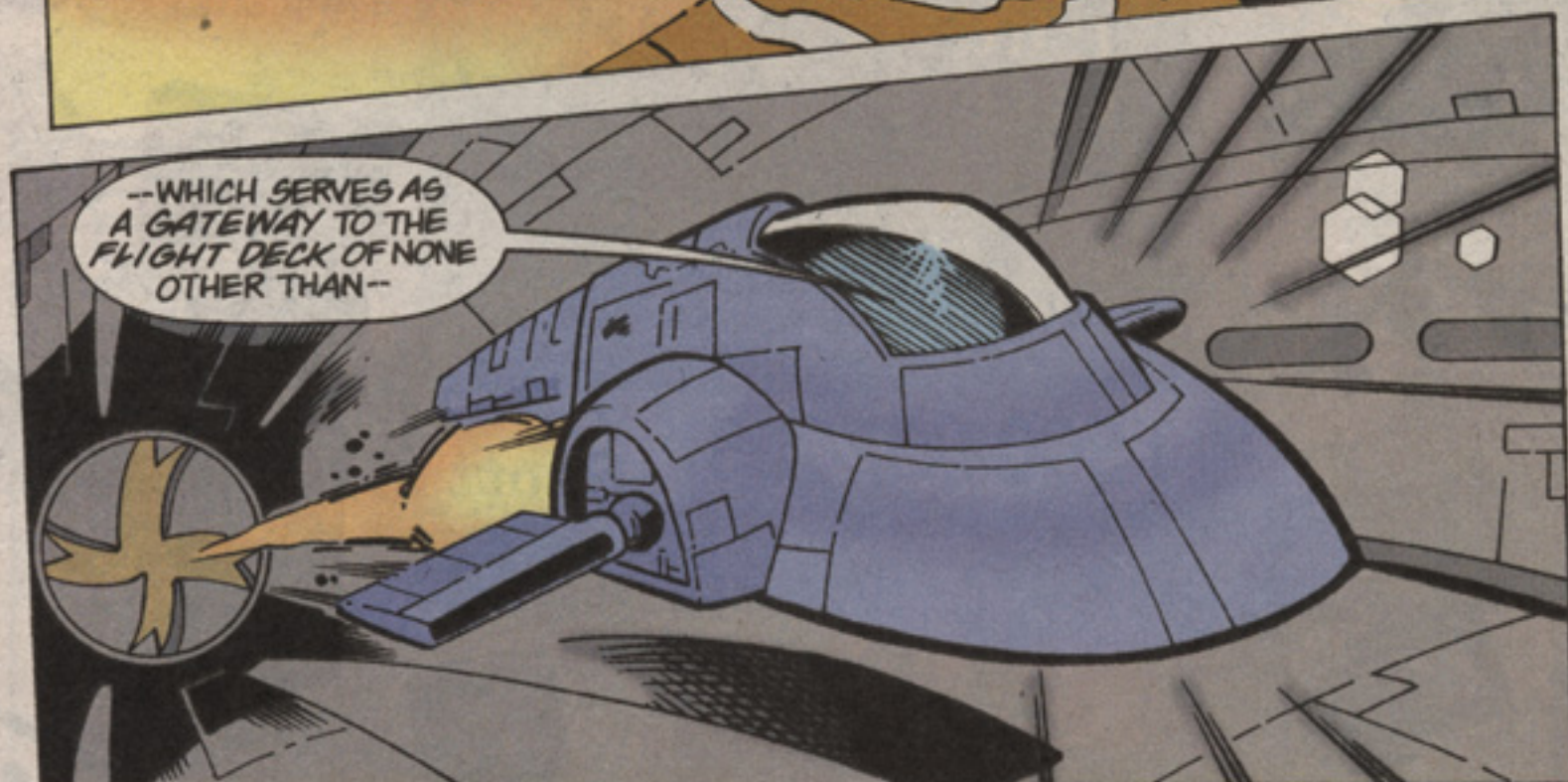
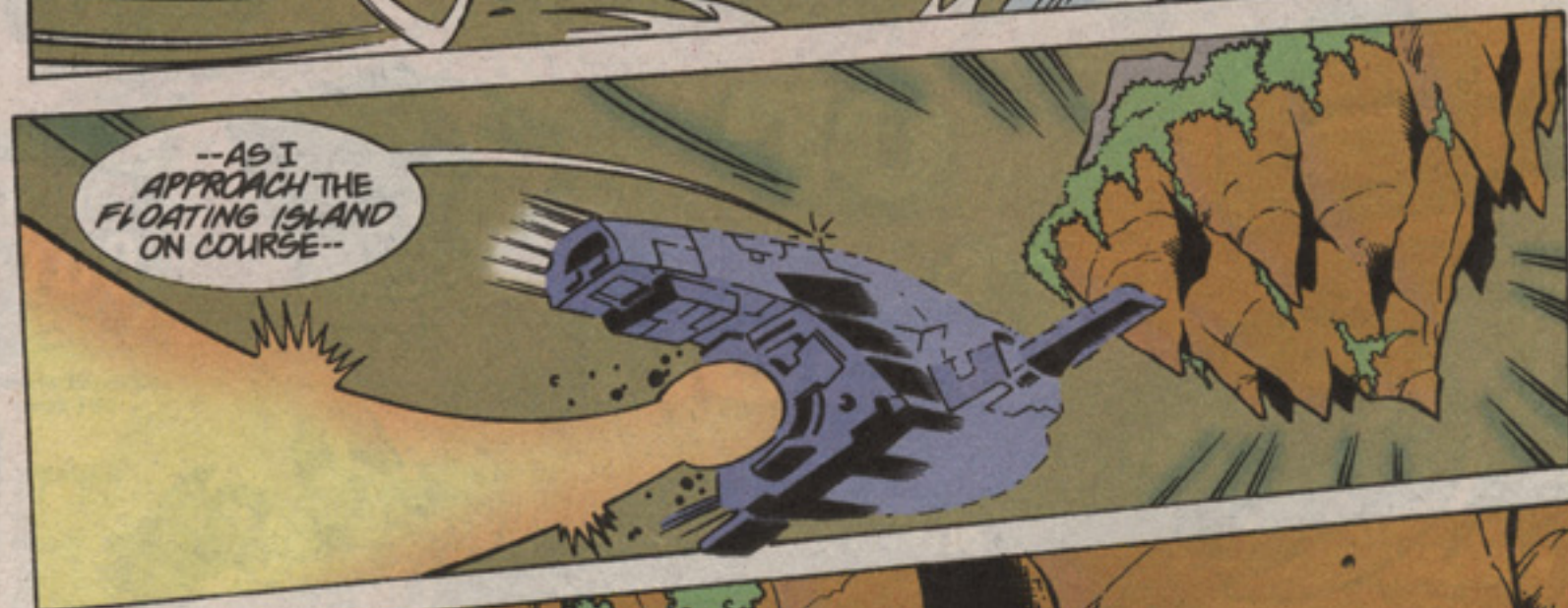
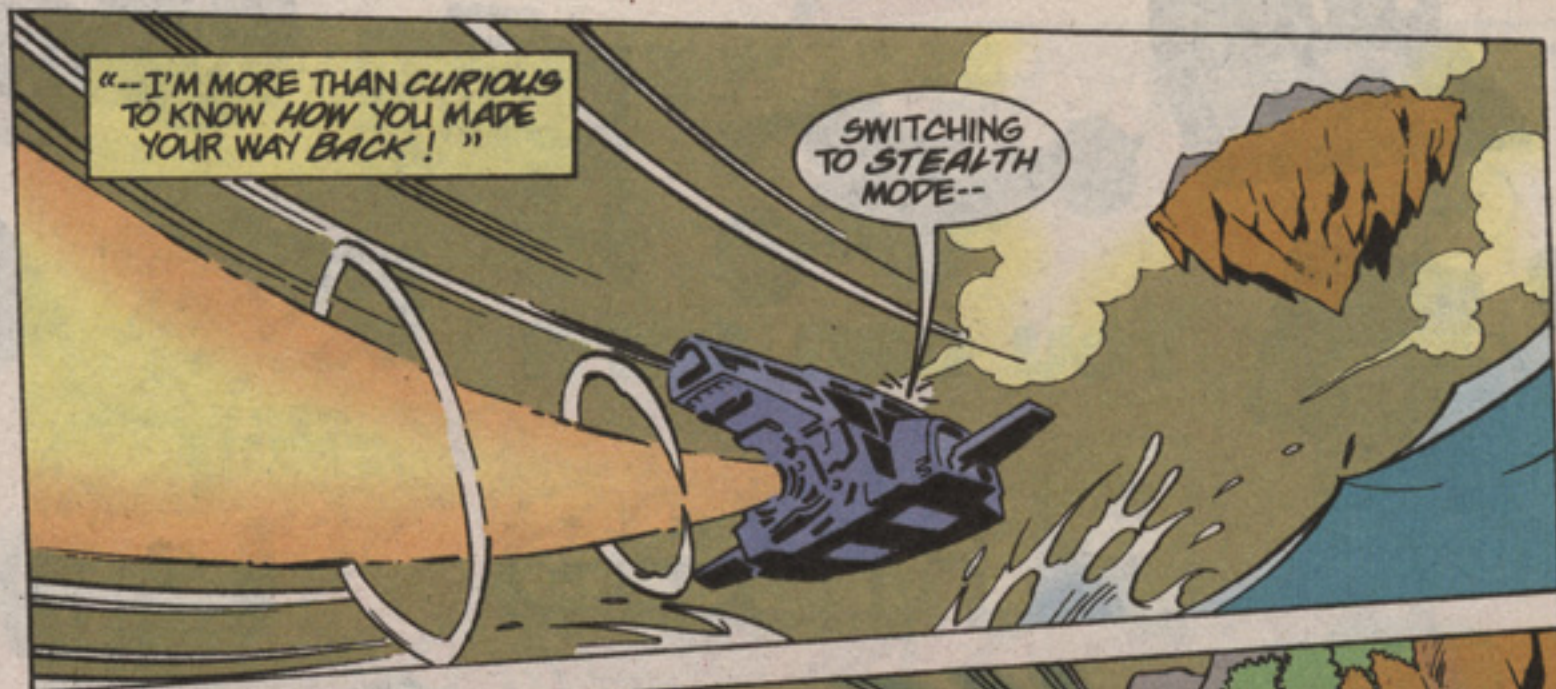
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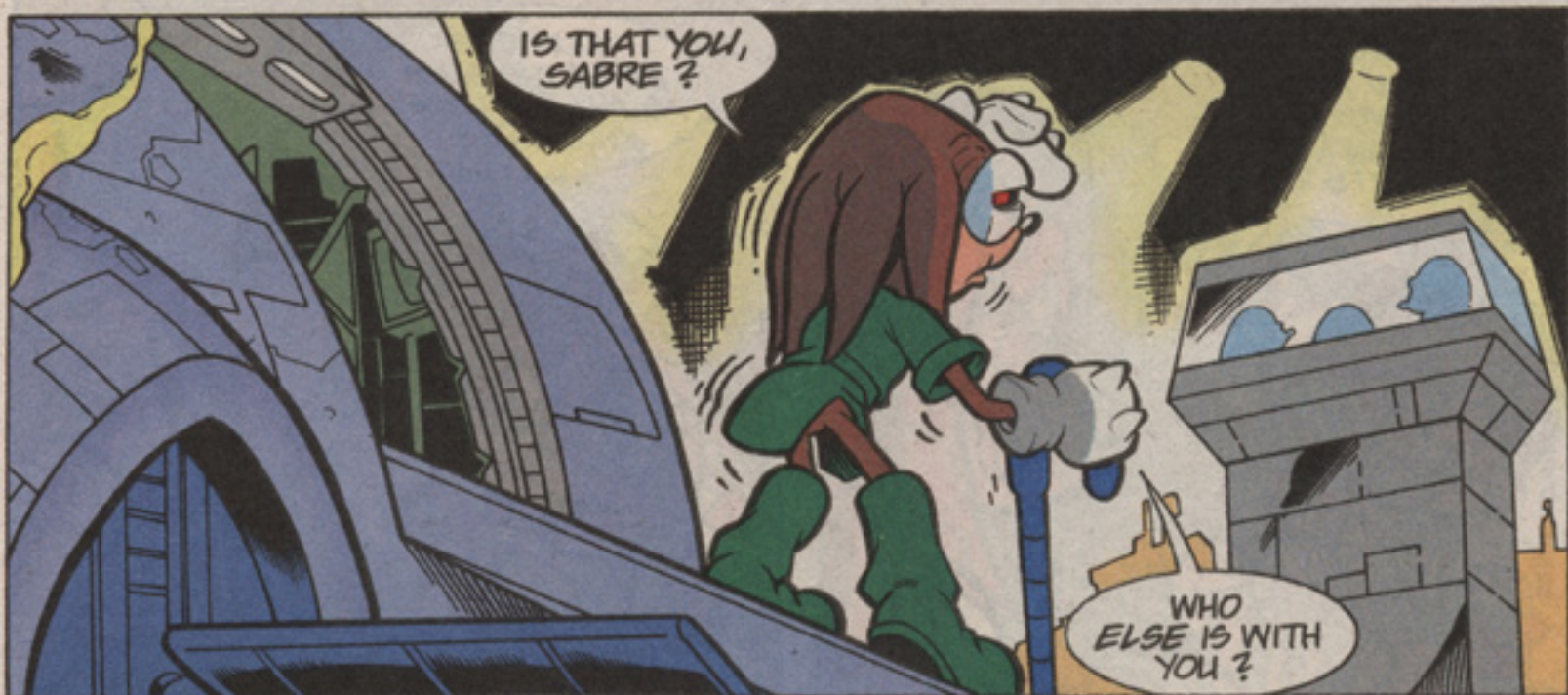
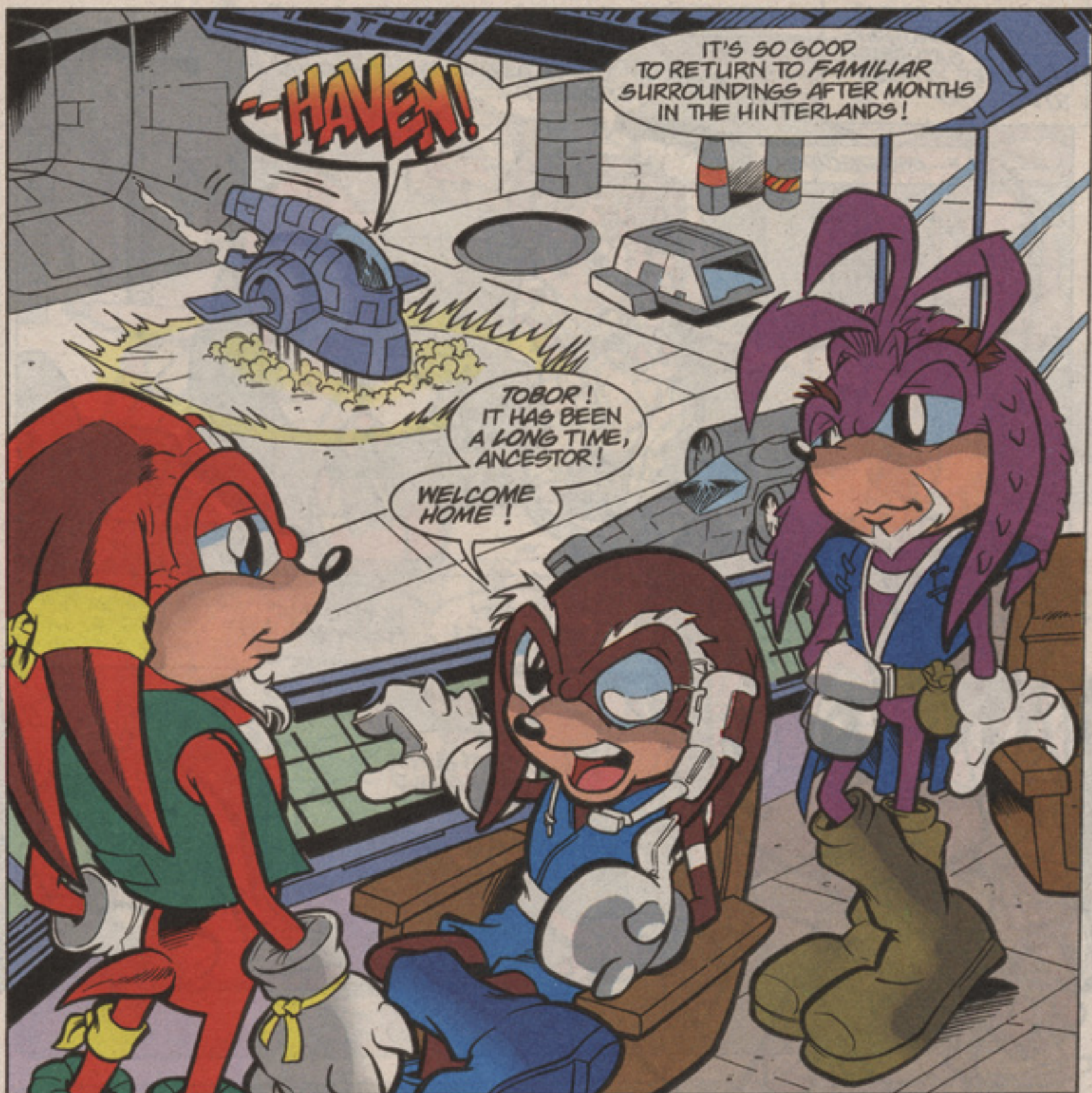
REUNIONS











"EVERYONE OF THE
CURRENT BROTHER-
HOOD IS GATHERED,
FOR THERE IS MUCH
TO DISCUSS--

"--AND DECIDE!"

LET ME SEE
IF I HAVE THIS
STRAIGHT--

YOU RETURNED
BY CREATING AN
ENERGY TUNNEL OF
SOME KIND--



--ALL BY
YOURSELF?

HOW IS THAT
POSSIBLE?

I WAS
HOPING--

--THAT MAYBE
YOU COULD
TELL ME!

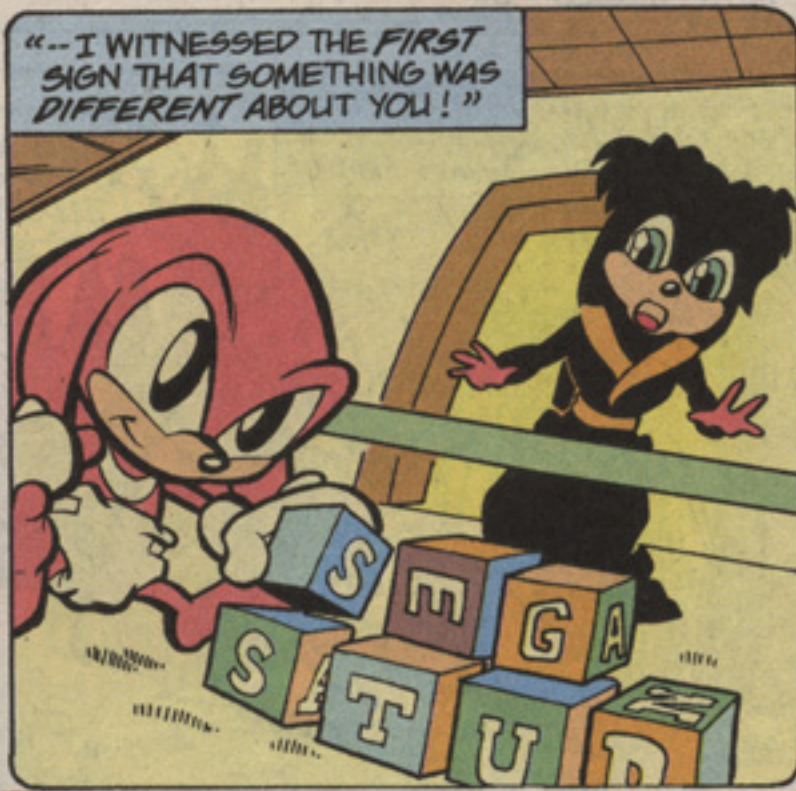
AFTER ALL--



--WHO
WOULD KNOW
MORE ABOUT
ME THAN MY
PARENTS?



YOU WERE
BORN THE SAME
AS ANY ECHIDNA,
KNUCKLES--



DIFFERENT?

IN WHAT WAY, MOTHER?



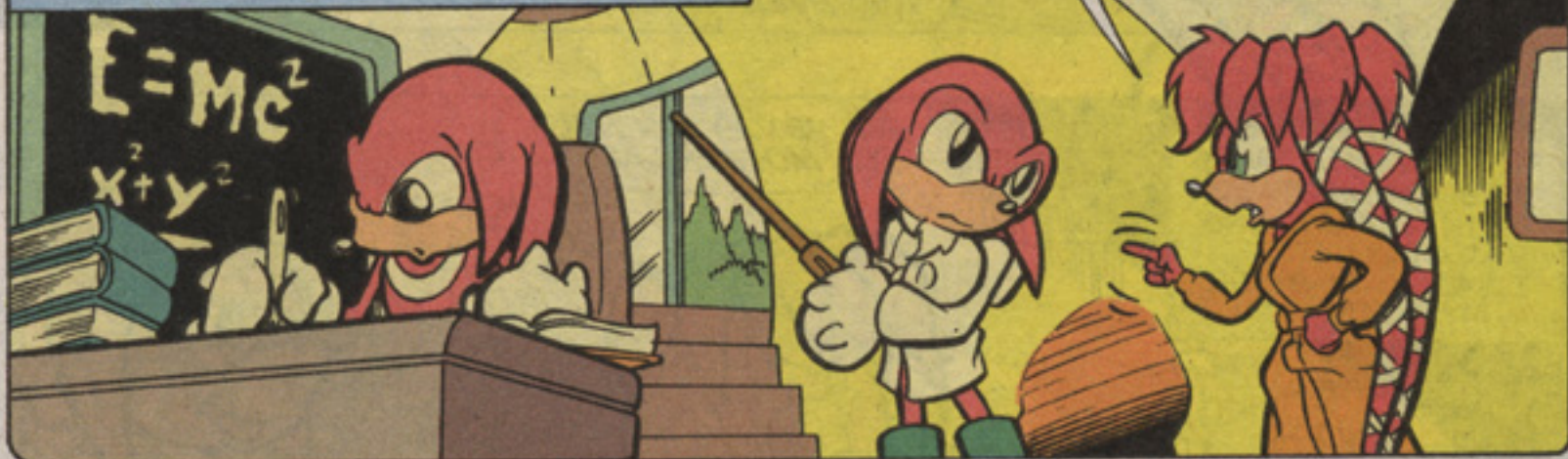
YOU WERE SPELLING WORDS FAR IN ADVANCE OF YOUR AGE LEVEL! BEFORE YOU COULD EVEN SPEAK!

WORDS EVEN I HAD TROUBLE WITH SOMETIMES!



"WHEN YOU WERE BUT THREE YEARS OF AGE, IT WAS YOUR FATHER WHO SUPERVISED YOUR TRAINING, AND DETERMINED WHAT WAS IN YOUR BEST INTERESTS!"

DON'T YOU THINK I SHOULD HAVE SOME SAY, LOCKE? HE'S MY SON AS WELL!



THIS IS HOW I WAS BROUGHT UP, LARA--

--AS WERE MY ANCESTORS BEFORE ME!

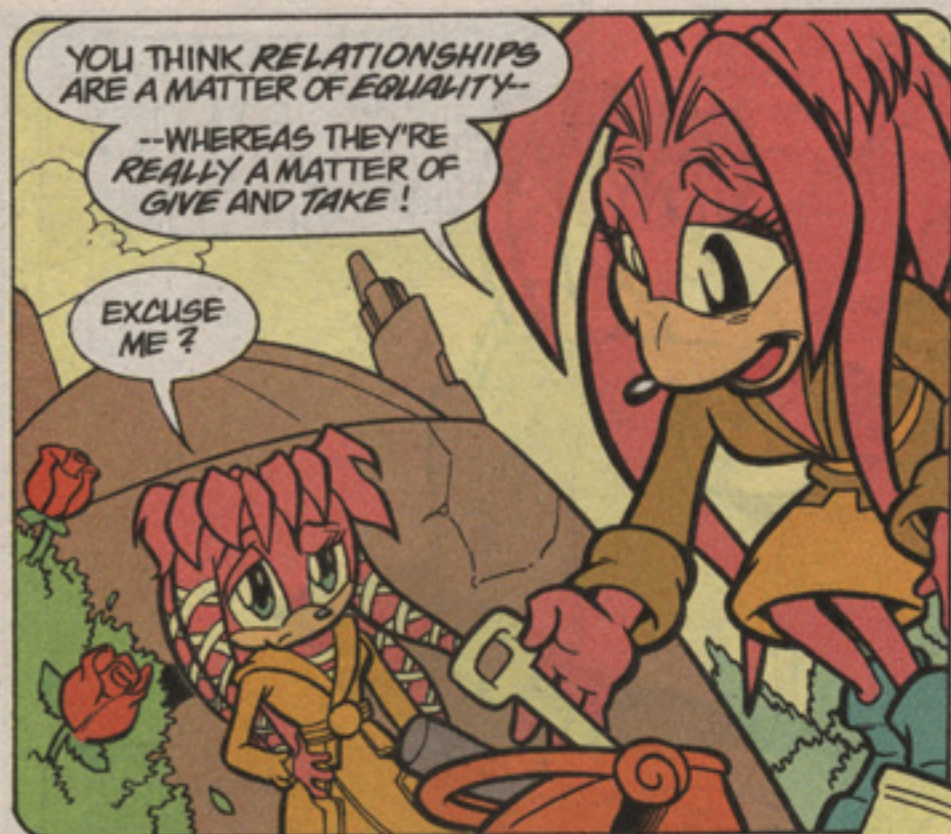


"FEELING OUT OF MY DEPTH, I SOUGHT COUNSEL FROM YOUR GRANDMOTHER JENNA-LU!"

I JUST WISH I KNEW WHAT TO DO!

YOU KNOW WHAT THE PROBLEM IS, LARA-LE?

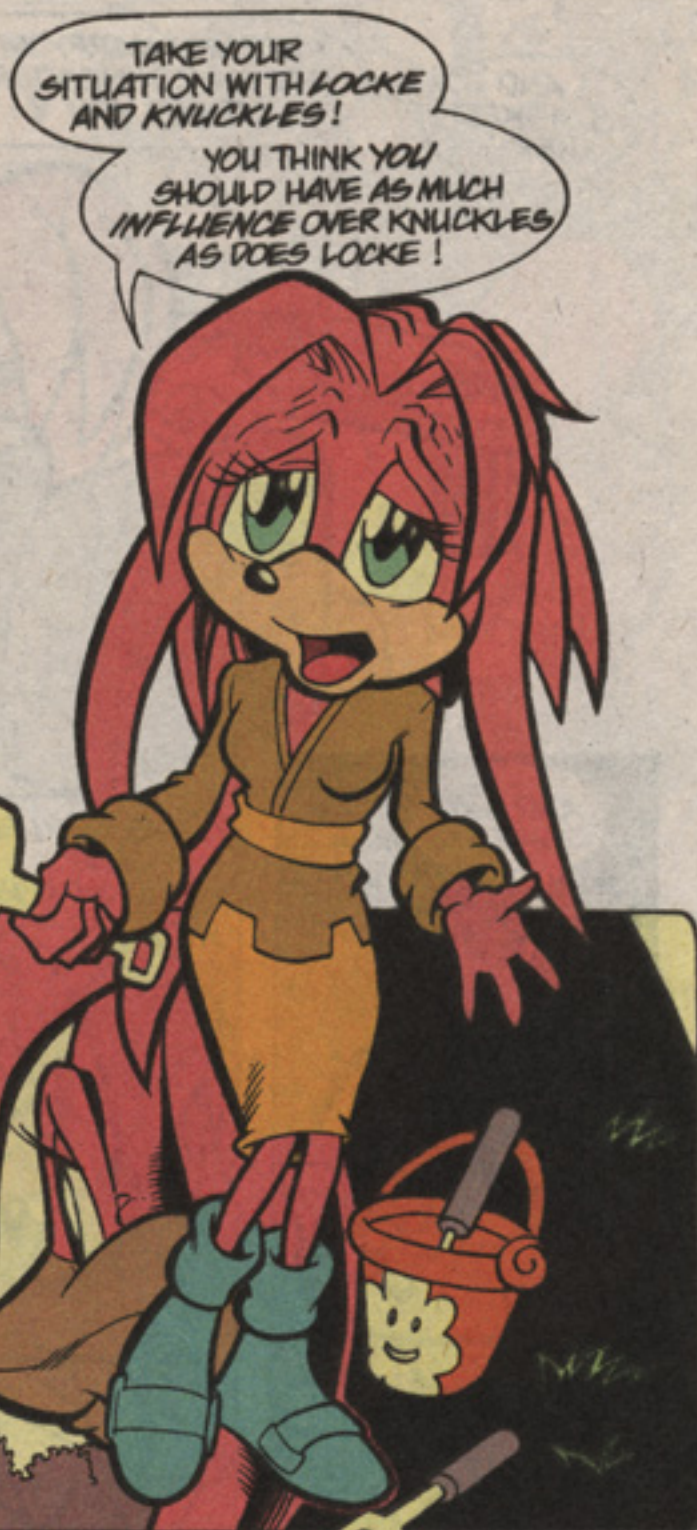




YOU THINK RELATIONSHIPS ARE A MATTER OF EQUALITY--

--WHEREAS THEY'RE REALLY A MATTER OF GIVE AND TAKE!

EXCUSE ME?



TAKE YOUR SITUATION WITH LOCKE AND KNUCKLES!

YOU THINK YOU SHOULD HAVE AS MUCH INFLUENCE OVER KNUCKLES AS DOES LOCKE!



I'M HIS MOTHER!

YES, BUT KNUCKLES IS DESTINED TO BE A GUARDIAN!



LOCKE TEACHES HIM WHAT HIS DUTIES WILL BE!

YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND--



--CAN SET AN EXAMPLE BY SHOWING HIM THE PERSON HE CAN BECOME!

MAY I ASK YOU A QUESTION?

CERTAINLY, LARA DEAR!





"--AND I'M NOT THE SAME PERSON I AM NOW THAT I WAS THEN!"

NOW THAT WE HAVE ALL GATHERED, I GUESS IT'S TIME TO GET CAUGHT UP!

WOULD YOU CARE TO BEGIN, GRANDFATHER TOBOR?



ALL IS PEACEFUL IN THE DRAGON KINGDOM--

--EXCEPT FOR THAT BIT OF BUSINESS INVOLVING A HEDGEHOG KNOWN AS SONIC AND HIS FRIEND TAILS!*



FORTUNATELY, THINGS DIDN'T GET SO OUT OF HAND THAT I HAD TO STEP IN!

* CHECK OUT SONIC #60 FOR DETAILS --JUSTIN.

" IF HE'S THE SAME ONE I'M THINKING OF--"



--HE WAS NOTHING BUT TROUBLE IN DOWNLINDA!*

I HAD A LOT OF CLEANING UP TO DO AFTER HE LEFT!



THAT WAS NOTHING, THUNDERHAWK! YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN--

ENOUGH WITH THE HEDGEHOG, GRANDFATHER SOJOURNER!

EVERYONE, PLEASE--

* FOR MORE INFO, REFER TO SONIC #61--JUSTIN.

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ON SALE
IN JULY

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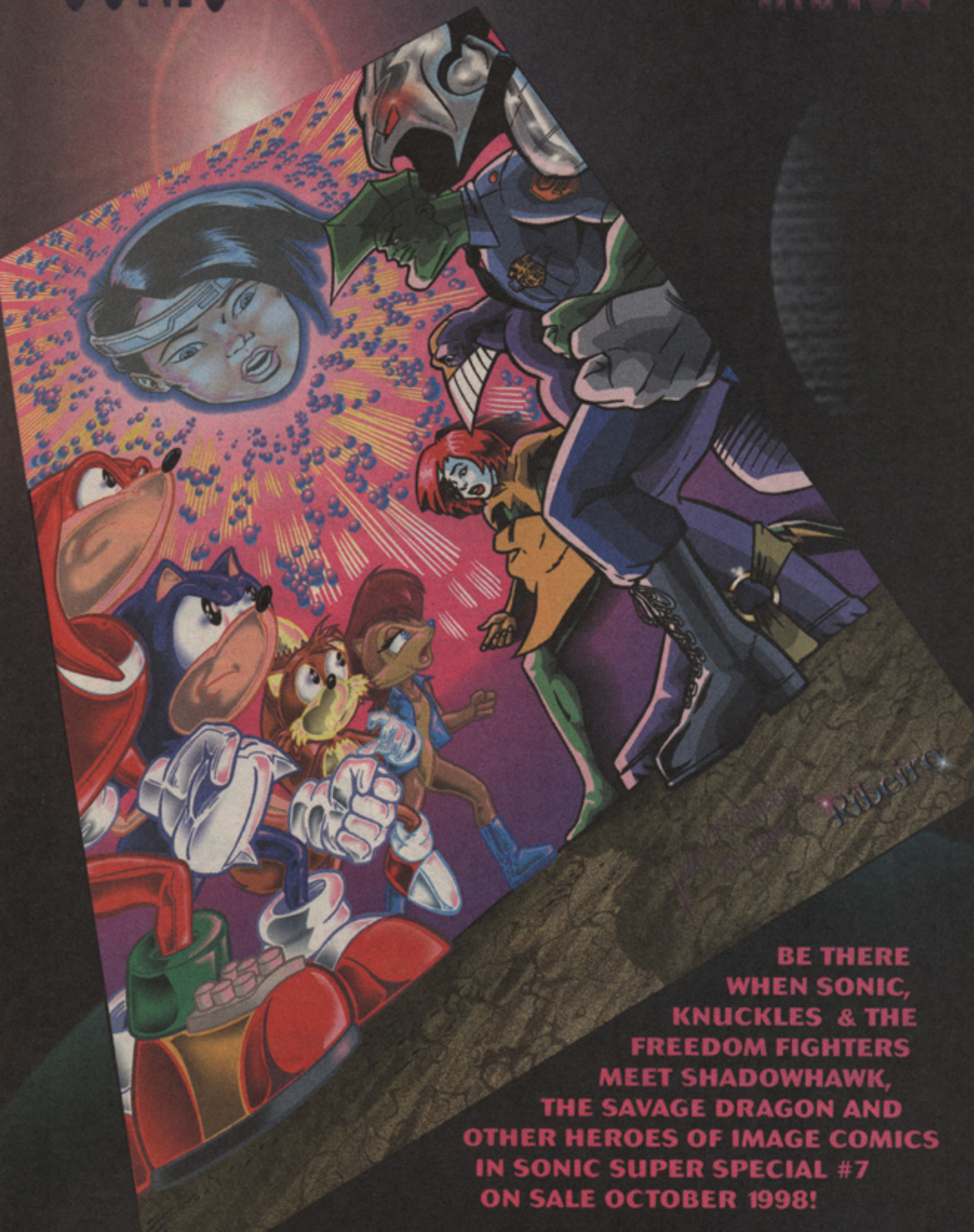
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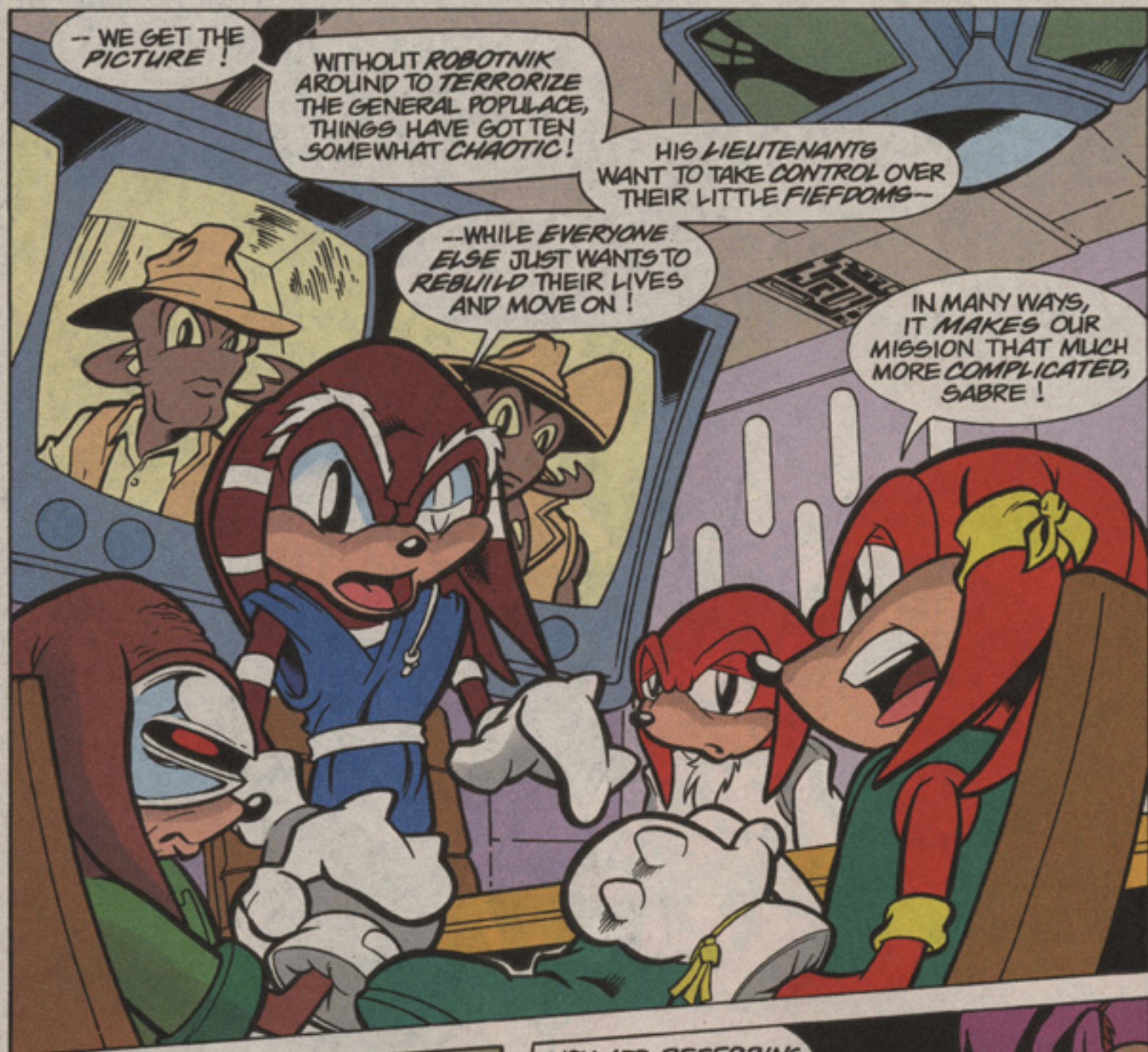
HERE'S
YOUR
CHANCE
TO
SAVE!!!



SONIC TAKES ON A WHOLE NEW IMAGE



**BE THERE
WHEN SONIC,
KNUCKLES & THE
FREEDOM FIGHTERS
MEET SHADOWHAWK,
THE SAVAGE DRAGON AND
OTHER HEROES OF IMAGE COMICS
IN SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #7
ON SALE OCTOBER 1998!**



-- WE GET THE PICTURE !

WITHOUT ROBOTNIK AROUND TO TERRORIZE THE GENERAL POPULACE, THINGS HAVE GOTTEN SOMEWHAT CHAOTIC !

HIS LIEUTENANTS WANT TO TAKE CONTROL OVER THEIR LITTLE FIEFDOMS--

--WHILE EVERYONE ELSE JUST WANTS TO REBUILD THEIR LIVES AND MOVE ON !

IN MANY WAYS, IT MAKES OUR MISSION THAT MUCH MORE COMPLICATED, SABRE !



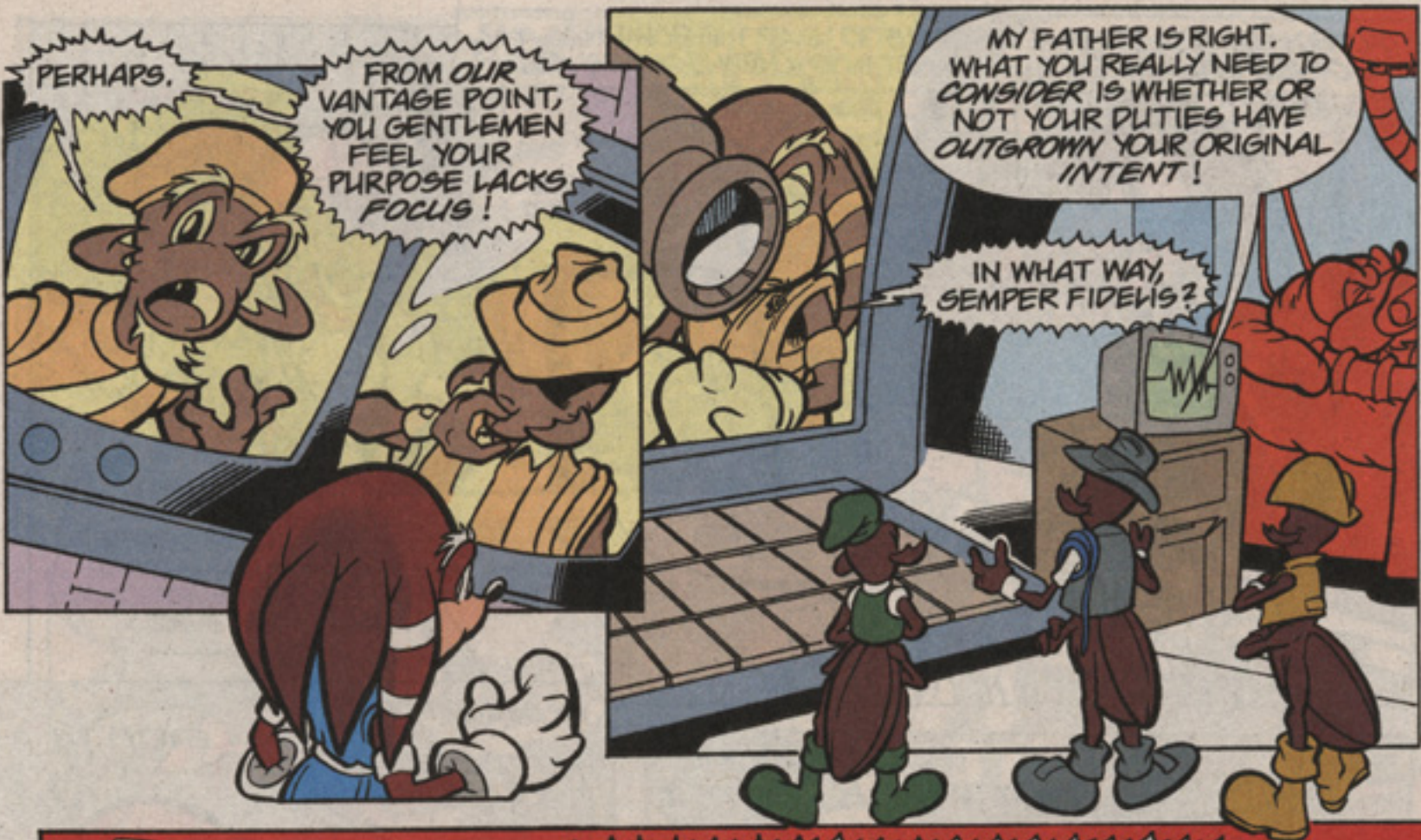
IT'S EASIER TO PREVENT ULTIMATE ANNIHILATION OR A COMMON ENEMY FROM USURPING TOTAL CONTROL THAN IT IS TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHICH BRUSH FIRE TO PUT OUT !



YOU ARE REFERRING TO ROBOTNIK'S LIEUTENANTS ?

AS WELL AS THE DISCIPLES OF DIMITRI !

MAYBE OUR COUNCIL OF ADVISORS HAVE A SUGGESTION OR TWO ?



PERHAPS.

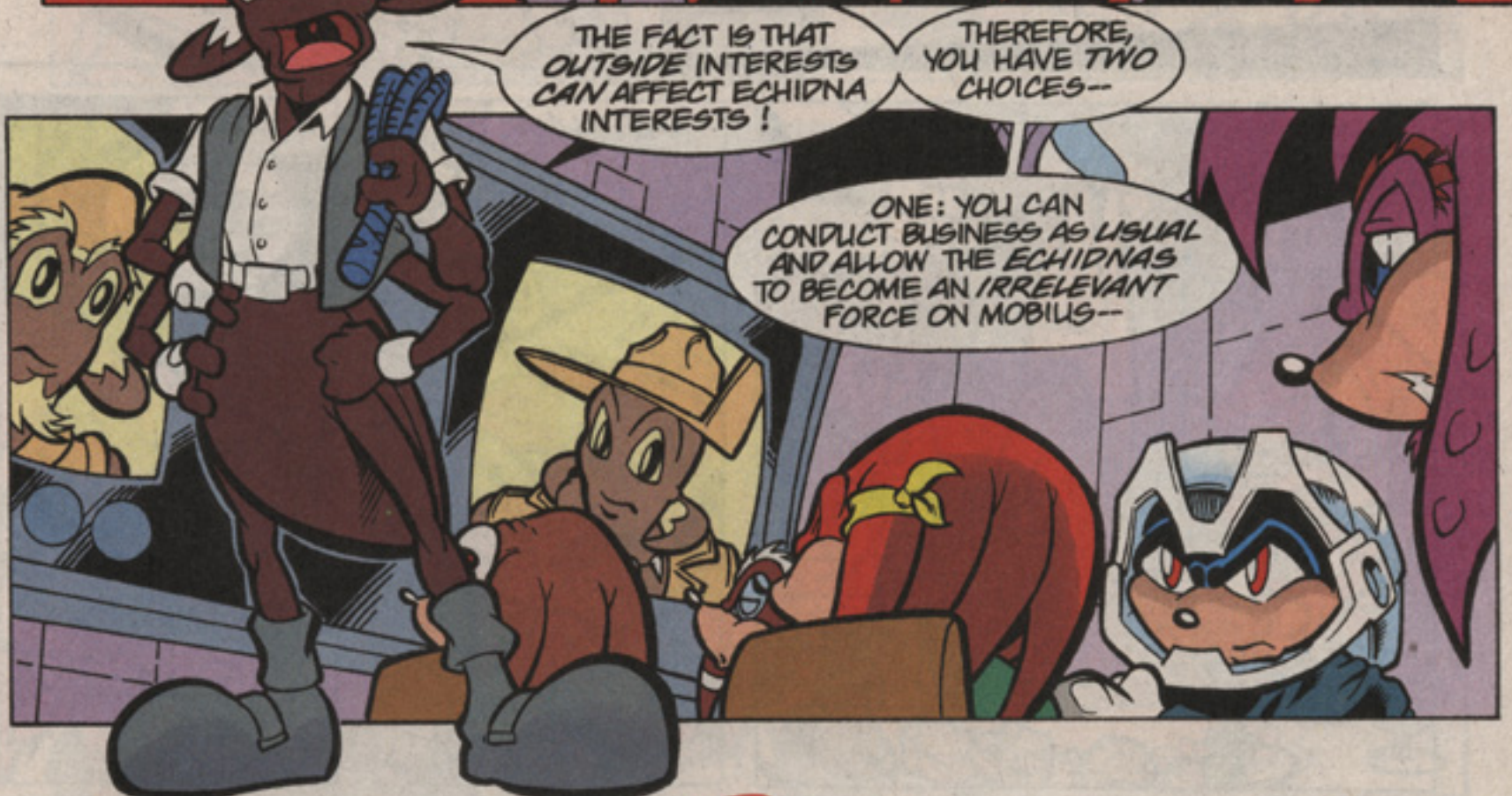
FROM OUR VANTAGE POINT, YOU GENTLEMEN FEEL YOUR PURPOSE LACKS FOCUS!

MY FATHER IS RIGHT. WHAT YOU REALLY NEED TO CONSIDER IS WHETHER OR NOT YOUR DUTIES HAVE OUTGROWN YOUR ORIGINAL INTENT!

IN WHAT WAY, SEMPER FIDELIS?



THE GUARDIANS' MISSION HAS ALWAYS BEEN DEFINED AS PROTECTOR OF THE FLOATING ISLAND, WHILE THE BROTHERHOOD HAS LOOKED AFTER ECHIDNA INTERESTS ON A GLOBAL SCALE.

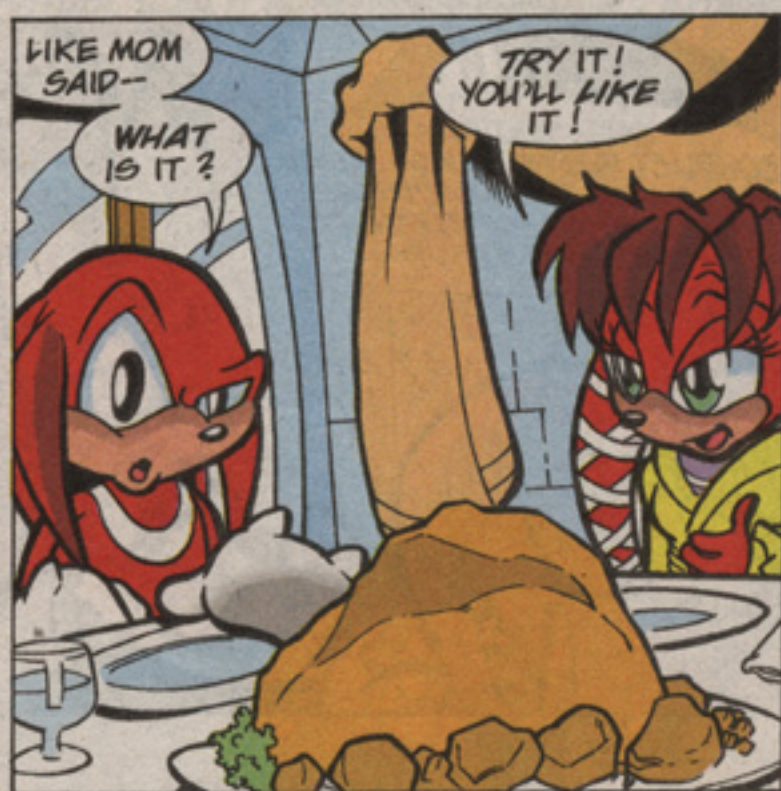
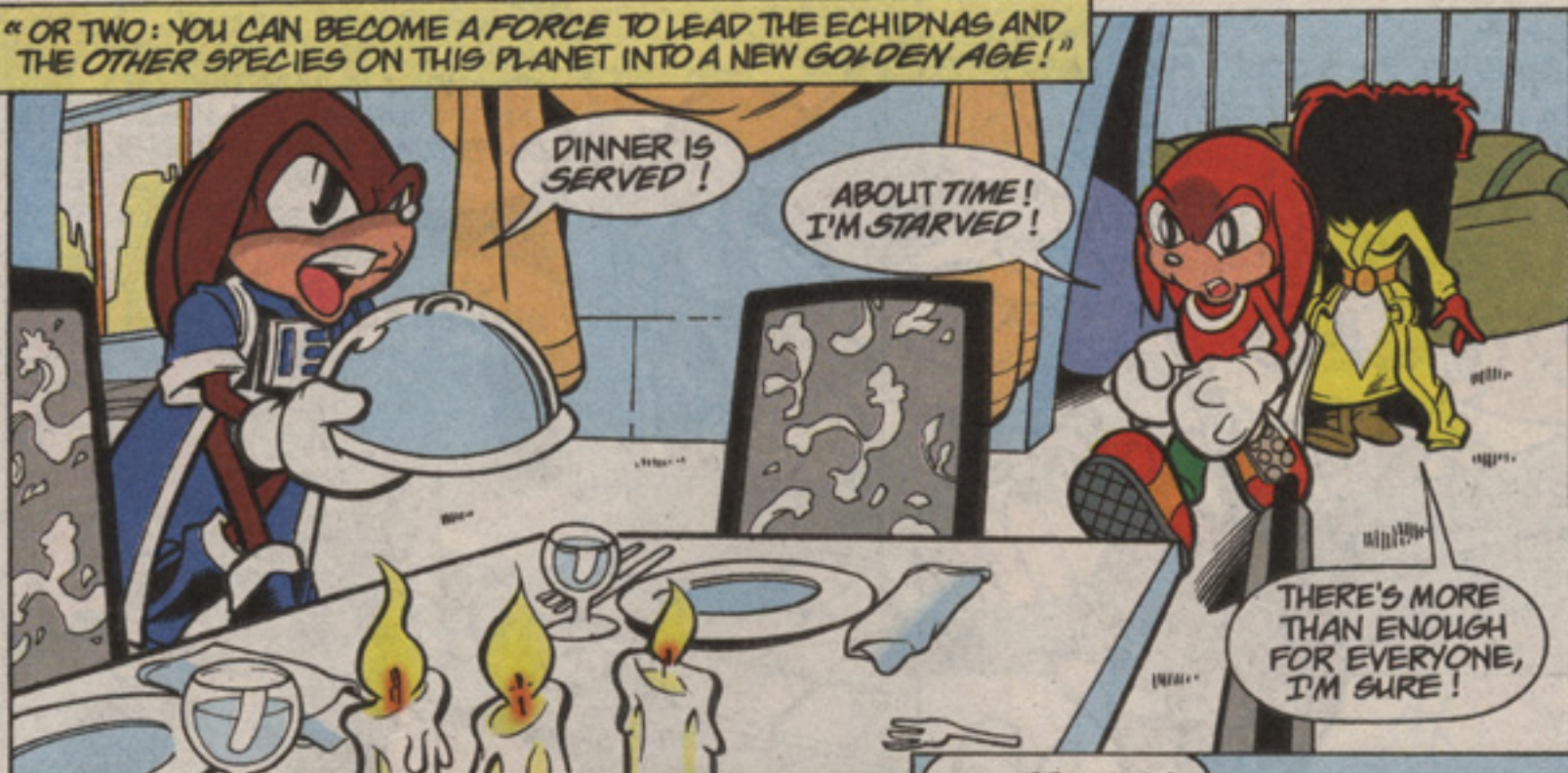


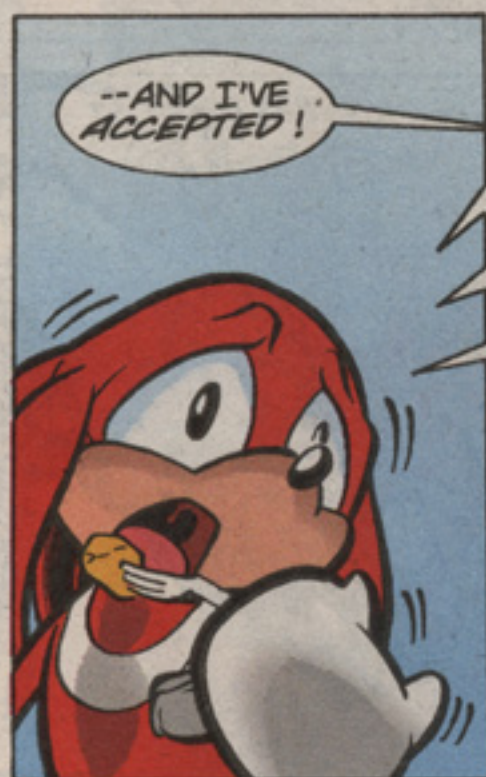
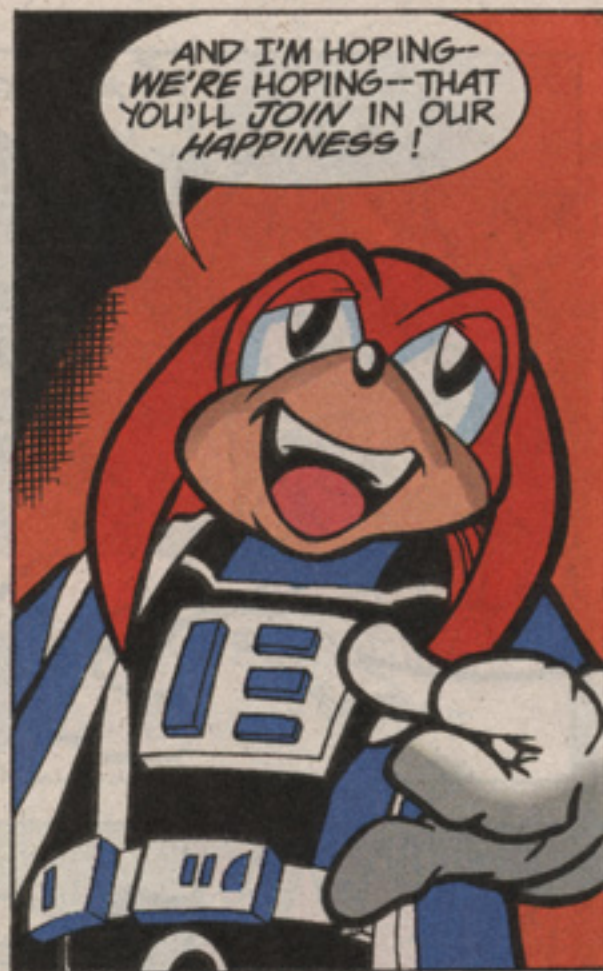
THE FACT IS THAT OUTSIDE INTERESTS CAN AFFECT ECHIDNA INTERESTS!

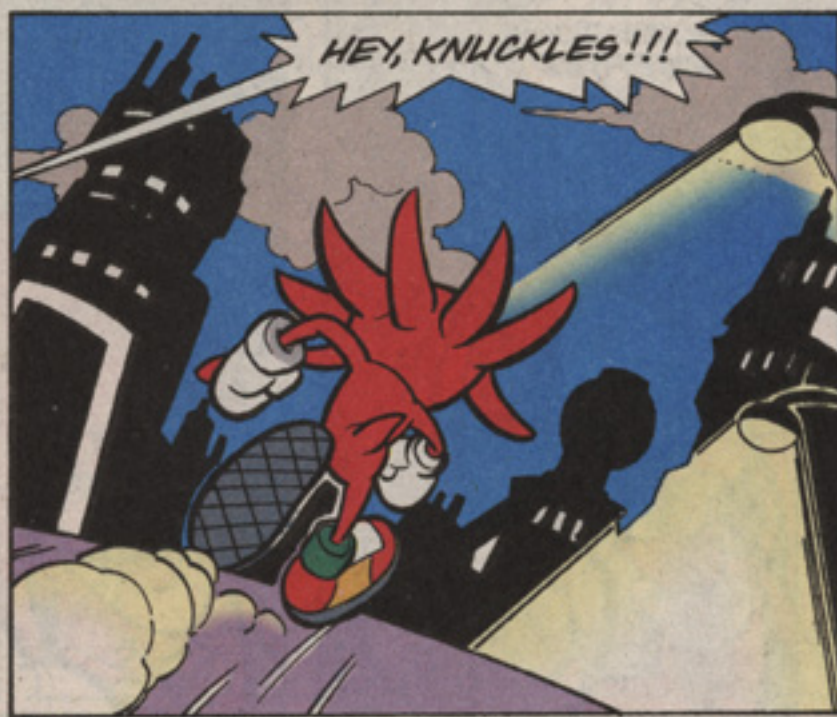
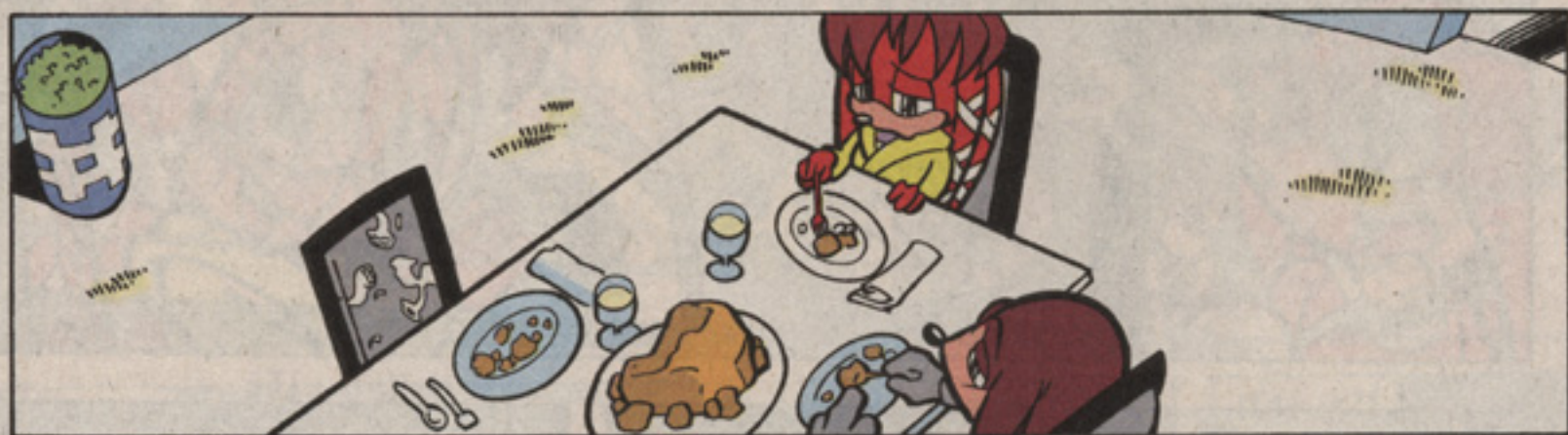
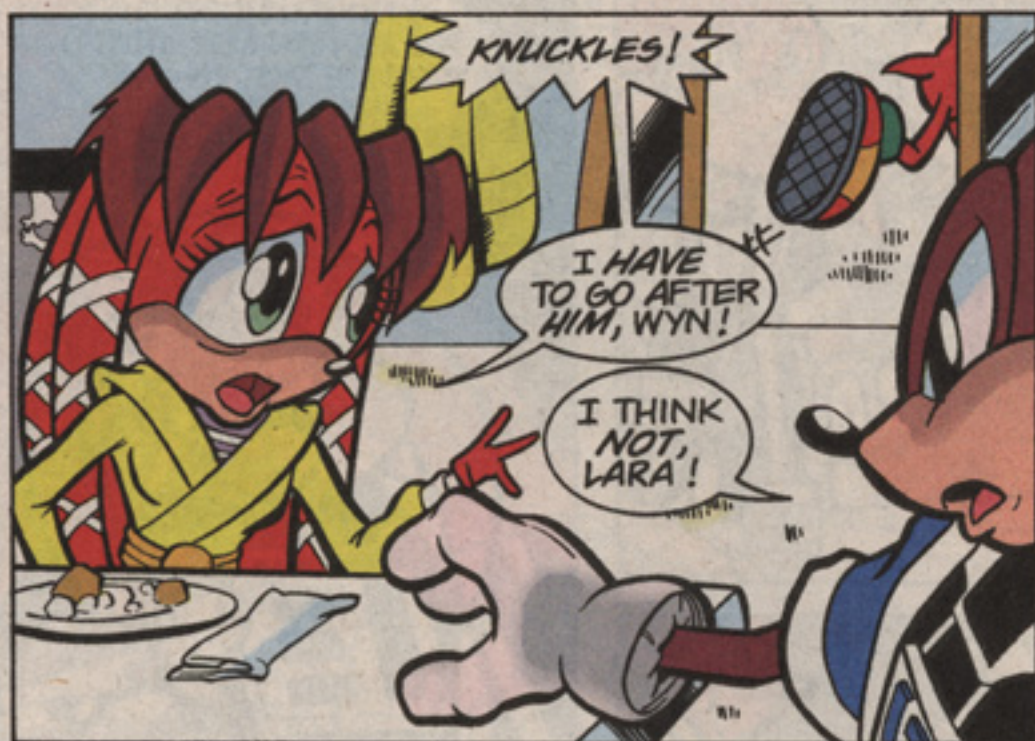
THEREFORE, YOU HAVE TWO CHOICES--

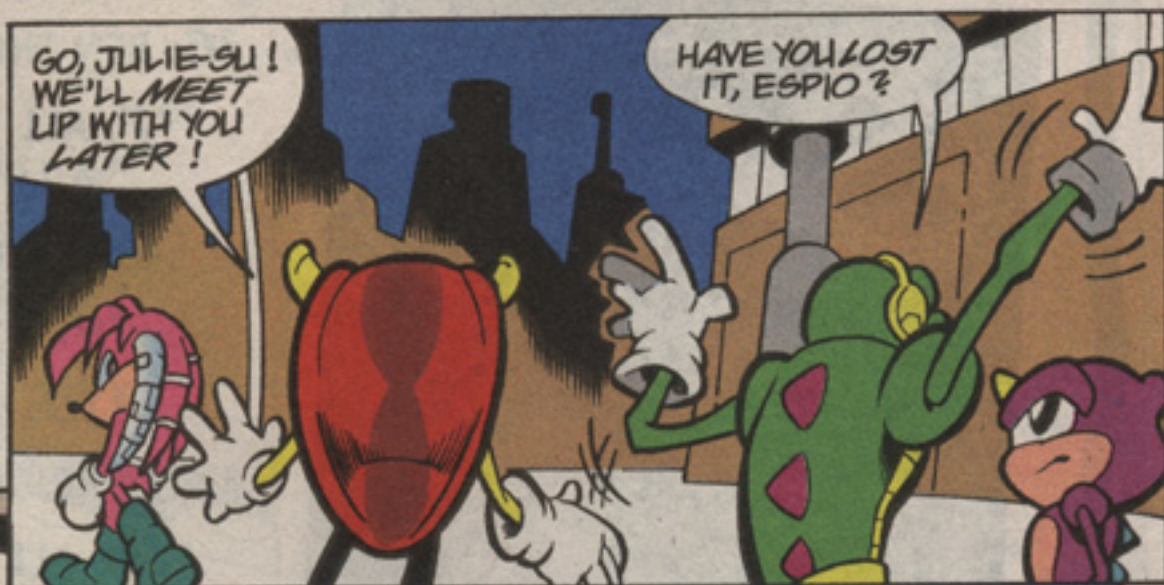
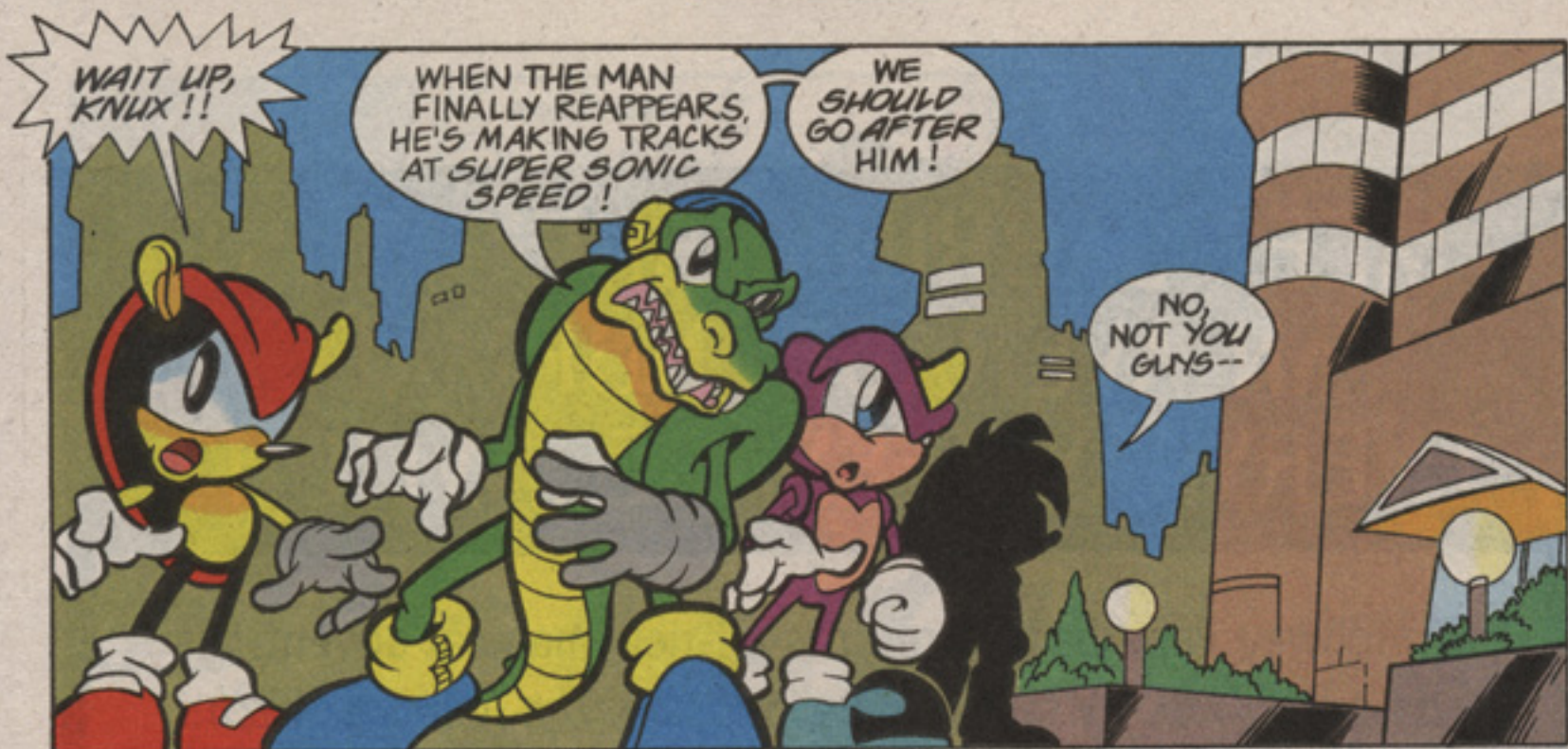
ONE: YOU CAN CONDUCT BUSINESS AS USUAL AND ALLOW THE ECHIDNAS TO BECOME AN IRRELEVANT FORCE ON MOBIUS--

"OR TWO: YOU CAN BECOME A FORCE TO LEAD THE ECHIDNAS AND THE OTHER SPECIES ON THIS PLANET INTO A NEW GOLDEN AGE!"









"--I BELIEVE IT WOULD
TAKE A LOT MORE THAN
YOU TO STOP HER!"

WE HAVE
A BIGGER
PROBLEM--

--KNUCKLES!

LOCKE'S SON?

YES!

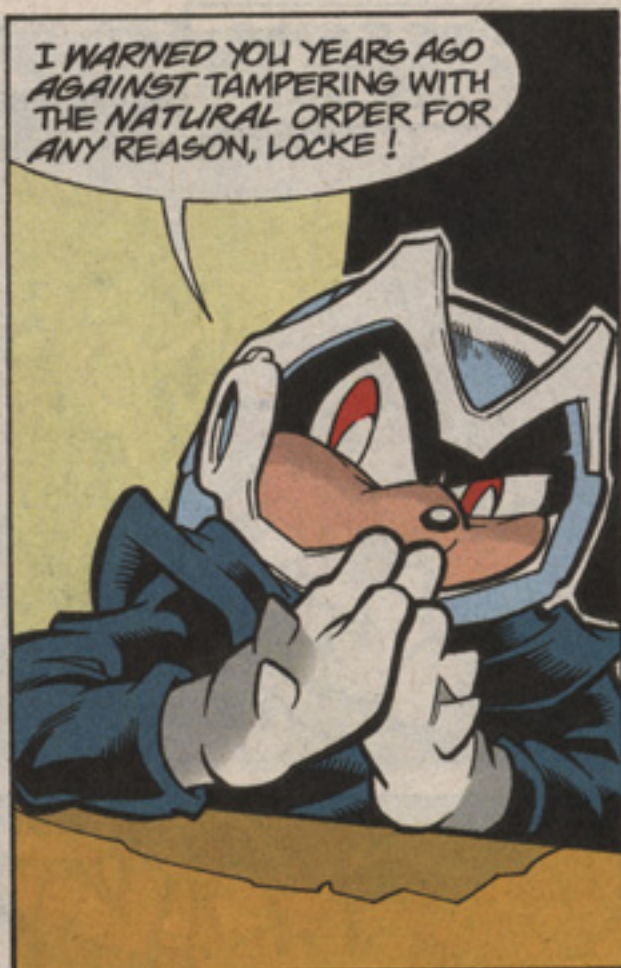
MY FATHER,
ATHAIR, TOOK
KNUCKLES WITH
HIM AND PROVIDED
THE PROPER
SCENARIO--

--FOR HIM
TO INSTINCTIVELY
CALL ON HIS ABILITIES.
ABILITIES HE HASN'T FULLY
MATURED INTO!

WE'VE ALL HAD TO
ENDURE GOING THROUGH
ADOLESCENCE, GABRE!

JUST BECAUSE IT'S
MORE CHALLENGING FOR
ONE OF OUR OWN
THAN YOUR TYPICAL
ECHIDNA--

NO! THIS
IS FAR
GRAVER!



"-- FOR US TO CONSIDER
KNUCKLES' PROBLEM IN
A MORE SERIOUS LIGHT!"



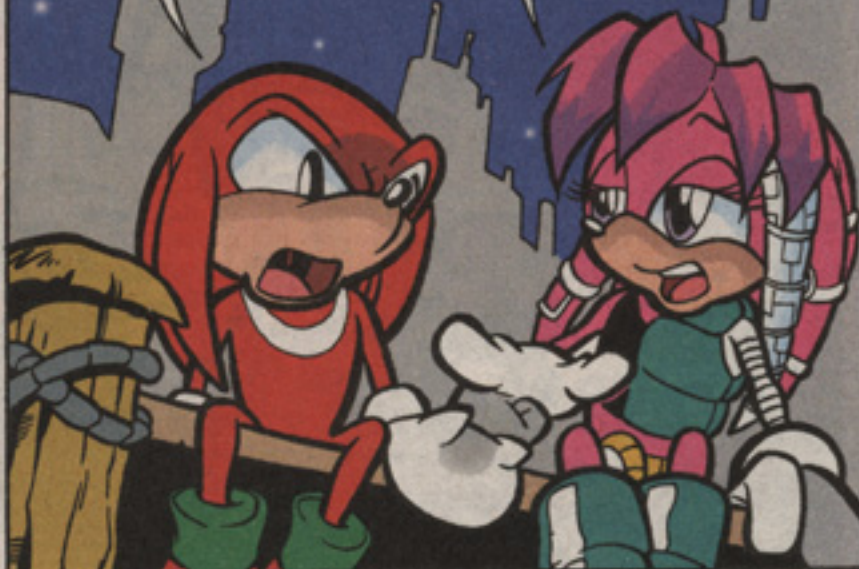
HEY, THERE! WOULD
YOU LIKE SOME
COMPANY?

I'D
RATHER
BE BY
MYSELF,
THANKS!



YOU DON'T
LISTEN
VERY WELL,
DO YOU?

ESPECIALLY
NOT TO YOU, THAT'S
FOR SURE!



IT FIGURES!
HOW ABOUT--?!!

SMACK!

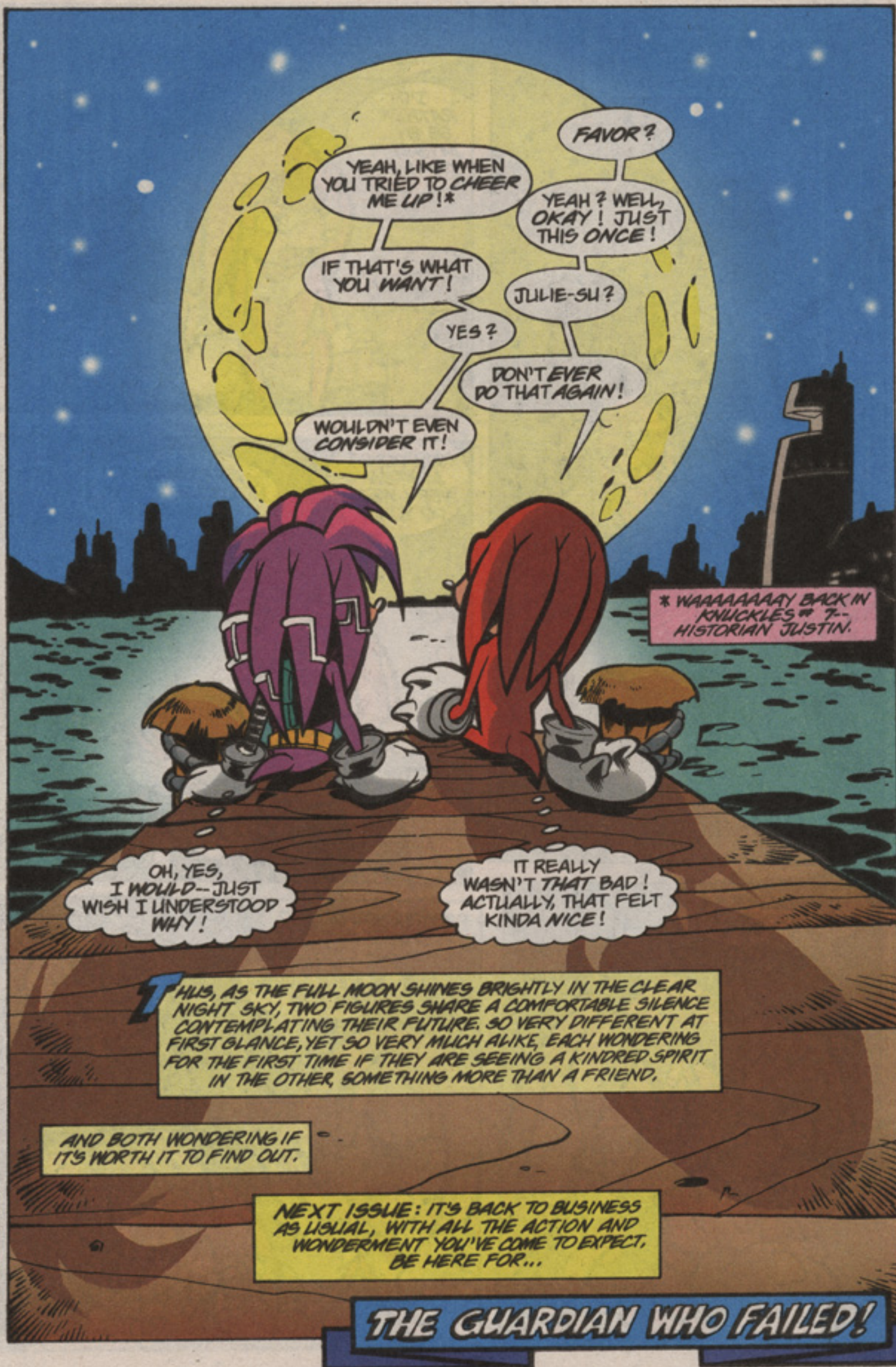


WHY DID YOU GO AND
DO THAT FOR?

I'M NOT
SURE I EVEN
LIKE YOU!

I
WAS SIMPLY
RETURNING
YOU THE
FAVOR!





YEAH, LIKE WHEN
YOU TRIED TO CHEER
ME UP!*

FAVOR?

YEAH? WELL,
OKAY! JUST
THIS ONCE!

IF THAT'S WHAT
YOU WANT!

JULIE-SU?

YES?

DON'T EVER
DO THAT AGAIN!

WOULDN'T EVEN
CONSIDER IT!

* WAAAAAAAY BACK IN
KNUCKLES' 7--
HISTORIAN JUSTIN.

OH, YES,
I WOULD-- JUST
WISH I UNDERSTOOD
WHY!

IT REALLY
WASN'T THAT BAD!
ACTUALLY, THAT FELT
KINDA NICE!

THUS, AS THE FULL MOON SHINES BRIGHTLY IN THE CLEAR
NIGHT SKY, TWO FIGURES SHARE A COMFORTABLE SILENCE
CONTEMPLATING THEIR FUTURE. SO VERY DIFFERENT AT
FIRST GLANCE, YET SO VERY MUCH ALIKE, EACH WONDERING
FOR THE FIRST TIME IF THEY ARE SEEING A KINDRED SPIRIT
IN THE OTHER, SOMETHING MORE THAN A FRIEND,

AND BOTH WONDERING IF
IT'S WORTH IT TO FIND OUT.

NEXT ISSUE: IT'S BACK TO BUSINESS
AS USUAL, WITH ALL THE ACTION AND
WONDERMENT YOU'VE COME TO EXPECT.
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FISTFUL OF LETTERS

JUSTIN FREDDY GABRIE EDITOR

THE PAST RETURNS!

NEXT MONTH: PAST AND PRESENT COLLIDE AS A MYSTERIOUS ECHIDNA MAKES HIS PRESENCE KNOWN ON **THE FLOATING ISLAND**. THE SECRETS HE POSSESSES COULD NOT ONLY AFFECT **KNUCKLES**, BUT **THE BROTHERHOOD OF GUARDIANS** WHO STAND WATCH IN **HAVEN** AS WELL. FIND OUT THE ANSWERS IN THIS EPIC TALE OF BETRAYAL AND REDEMPTION. WRITTEN BY KEN PENDERS. ART BY MANNY GALAN AND ANDREW PEPOY. **KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #17 ON SALE AUGUST 1998!**

ON OTHER MOBIAN NEWS...

IN TWO WEEKS: WHEN **SONIC** AND **TAILS** WERE FORCED TO LAND IN THE FORCE-FIELD COVERED CITY OF **SAND BLAST CITY** IN ISSUE #62, THEY HAD NO IDEA WHAT THEY HAD GOTTEN INTO. HAVING TO FIND A WAY TO ESCAPE BECOMES PARAMOUNT AS **THE SAND BLAST FREEDOM FIGHTERS** DECIDE THEY ARE GOING TO STAY THERE... FOREVER! STORY AND ART BY KARL BOLLERS, STEVEN BUTLER & PAM EKLUND. INCLUDED: PART THREE OF **ST. JOHN'S "ON HIS MAJESTY'S SECRET SERVICE"** STORY LINE. TRAINING BEGINS! WRITTEN & DRAWN BY KEN PENDERS & ART MAWHINNEY. **SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #63 ON SALE JULY 1998!**

ON OTHER SEGA NEWS...

AND IN ONE WEEK: **ELLIOT** AND **CLARIS** ARE IN TROUBLE: THE SCHOOL IS UPSET OVER THEIR RECENT ABSENCES AND THEY'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME TO SAVE **NIGHTS**! WITH EACH PASSING MOMENT, **NIGHTS**—WHO CAN'T SURVIVE IN THE "REAL" WORLD—IS CEASING TO EXIST, AND **REALA** IS PLANNING A STRIKE AGAINST **NIGHTS'** VERY WEAKNESS! CAN **CLARIS** AND **ELLIOT** SAVE **NIGHTS** FROM EXTINCTION—AND THEMSELVES FROM EXPULSION. BROUGHT TO

YOU BY SONIC REGULARS, KARL BOLLERS, PATRICK "SPAZ"IANTE, SAM-MAXWELL AND HARVEY MERCADOOCASIO. PLUS CHECK OUT THE COMPUTER-MODELED COVER BY FAN-FAVES **SPAZ/HARVO** AND **HEROIC AGE**! **NIGHTS INTO DREAMS #5**

ON SALE JULY 1998!



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THE ECHIDNA #17
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HEDGEHOG #63
ON SALE JULY 1998!**



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FREDDY
GABRIE

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NOTE: DUE TO AN OVERWHELMING AMOUNT OF E-MAIL, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO REPLY PERSONALLY TO EACH AND EVERY MESSAGE. HOWEVER, YOUR OPINIONS ARE IMPORTANT TO US AND EACH MESSAGE WILL BE READ.

THANKS FOR
UNDERSTANDING!

FAN ART

KNUCKLES

Dear Knuckles,

In Knuckles #9, you were put back in one piece again! When you get around to it, you should definitely thank The Ancient Walkers! Poor Enerjak! How could he let Mammoth Mogul use the Sword of Acorns to drain all of his energy?!?! Now he's just an echidna named Dimitri. I hope he gets his powers back and takes revenge on Mogul. Julie-Su is innocent, I tell you. She should not go to jail. She stopped Kragok and could have disposed The Chaotix in issue #8, but didn't!

Kathleen "Kat" D. Najera
Lakewood, CA

For all his power, Enerjak constantly underestimated his opponents. He thought all his power would protect him no matter what. Enter Mogul who had the will, the drive, the intelligence and the patience to do the impossible. But don't count Dimitri out yet. As you can see, Julie-Su is not only out of jail but an official team member of The Chaotix.

NOTES FROM THE N.E.T.



Dear Knuckles,

I am Kragok. The stupid constable was so blind, he didn't notice my escape until it was too late. And as soon as I round up all my echidnas and Julie-Su escapes, I will take over the entire island! But first I have some questions for you: 1) What is Locke's father's name? 2) Do you have a grandmother? 3) If yes, will you show her?

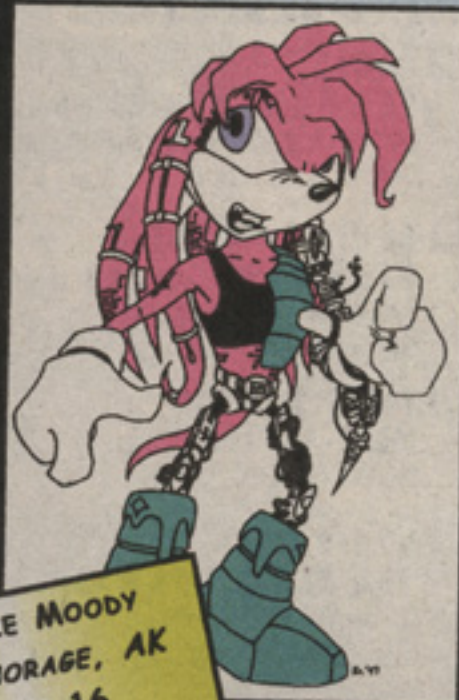
Kragok (Michael D. Griffith)
kragok@juno.com

You might have escaped, but the real Kragok is still being held by the Echidna Security Team, so I don't think so. Now on to some answers: 1) Sabre is Locke's father's name. 2 & 3) Yes, I do. Her name is Jenna-Lu and she makes an appearance in Knuckles #16.

So until next month, stay cool!



JUSTIN KOO
NEW JERSEY
AGE 11



KATIE MOODY
ANCHORAGE, AK
AGE 16

MICHAEL BEE
PEORIA, IL
AGE 13

KNUCKLES



GALLAGHER LAIRD
SASKATCH., CANADA



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